



# California Postsecondary Education Commission

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Contact

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## CPEC Grants Help Improve Teacher Quality in California K-2 Education

SACRAMENTO — October 22, 2007 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) today announced it has awarded \$7,000,995 in new grants aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning in kindergarten through second grade in California. These grants were awarded to eight partnerships of universities and K-12 education agencies statewide (see Attachment I). Each grant provides intensive training and on-site coaching and follow-up activities for teachers during the first three years, with a fourth year funded to complete a rigorous evaluation of the impact of that training on student achievement.

“Over the years, many studies have shown that getting children off to a good start is essential to future academic achievement, so this year’s focus on K-2 education will help teachers provide that strong foundation for their students,” said CPEC Executive Director Murray Haberman.

“Also, these grants require in-depth evaluation research to demonstrate the impact of the professional development on student achievement. The research allows CPEC to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent on programs that really work in our schools and adds to the knowledge base on effective teacher professional development.”

The grants are part of a long-standing federal program that is now funded under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. CPEC has awarded more than \$93 million dollars in grants to colleges and universities working in partnership with high-need local school districts since 1984. The 2007 grants target teachers whose students are in kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2. The majority of the grants focus on the teaching of science and mathematics; where professional development is often limited by the increased focus on reading. Many of the grants propose to integrate curriculum so that improvement in math and science contributes to overall academic achievement by also helping students master important language skills.

Commission Chair Olivia Singh is enthusiastic about the awards. “These grants will provide hundreds of California teachers with expertise and support from colleges and universities so they can help thousands of young students get off to a better start in school,” she said. “This means those students will be better prepared to succeed throughout their education and in the high-skilled jobs required in today’s economy.”

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov). For more information about this program or individual projects, contact Karen Humphrey, Administrator, Improving Teacher Quality Program, at 916-445-1504 or [khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov](mailto:khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov).

CPEC Grants  
Attachment I

***2007 Improving Teacher Quality Grants  
California Postsecondary Education Commission***

California State University, Chico *in partnership with*  
Red Bluff Elementary School District  
Project Name: Mathematics in the Early Grades (MEG)  
Amount: \$944,415

California State University, Fresno *in partnership with*  
Riverdale Joint Unified School District  
Project Name: Mathematics Understanding, Learning, and Teaching (MULT)  
Amount: \$968,370

California State University, Long Beach *in partnership with*  
Montebello Unified School District  
Project Name: K-2 Teaching Learning Collaborative (TLC)  
Amount: \$950,694

San Diego State University, Imperial Valley campus *in partnership with*  
Calexico School District  
Project Name: Mathematics and English Language Development (MELD)  
Amount: \$971,371

University of California, Davis *in partnership with*  
Robla School District  
Project Name: Strategic Alliance of Robla/UC Davis/Sacramento COE  
Amount: \$273,127

University of California, Irvine *in partnership with*  
Compton Unified School District  
Project Name: Science and Math Impacting Learners of English (SMILE)  
Amount: \$999,666

Chapman University, *in partnership with*  
Anaheim City School District  
Project Name: Science-Centered Literacy for K-2 Students: Project SMART  
Amount: \$901,404

University of the Pacific, *in partnership with*  
New Hope Elementary School District and 15 other districts  
Project Name: K-2 STARTS: Science and Technology Assistance for Rural Teachers and Small Districts  
Amount: \$991,948